

ACTION DRL-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	OIGO-00	FBIE-00
	UTED-00	VC-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	L-00	VCE-00	M-00	NEA-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-00	NIMA-00	PA-00	MCC-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	PRS-00
	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	FMP-00
	BBG-00	R-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/001W				

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0872

INFO AMEMBASSY ABUJA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USLO TRIPOLI

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS NDJAMENA 000140

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR DRL FOR HARVEY, INR, AF, AF/C, AF/SPG, PRM,
USAID/OTI; LONDON AND PARIS FOR AFRICAWATCHERS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREF](#) [CD](#) [SU](#)

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY: THE U.S.

RECORD IN CHAD

REF: STATE 267453

11. The Government's human rights record remains poor. Security forces committed extrajudicial killings and continued to intimidate the public. The judiciary remained subject to executive interference. Violence and societal discrimination against women were common. The independent press occasionally experienced government interference. Landmines remain a key problem in northern Chad, where over one million mines are left over from the civil war. Women's rights and trafficking in persons are issues of concern. President Idriss Deby has ruled Chad since taking power in a 1990 rebellion. He was reelected President in May 2001. Fraud, vote rigging, and local irregularities marred the 2001 presidential election and the April legislative elections. Currently, the Government is proceeding with amending the Constitution to allow for unlimited presidential terms. If the public referendum on the amendments passes, Deby would be able to stand for election again in the next presidential elections in 2006.

12. The Embassy's human rights objectives in Chad include strengthening respect for rule of law, professionalization of Chad's security forces, bolstering the judicial system and the independent media, the transparent management of the country's oil revenues, outreach to the Muslim community, advancing women's issues, and support for efforts to resolve the humanitarian crisis in eastern Chad. The Embassy's strategy for improving Chad's human rights situation focuses on engaging directly with key government officials and improving interaction between the government and human rights groups. Efforts are also being made to strengthen the credibility and capacity of civil society groups and governmental institutions in addressing human rights abuses, including involving them in the visits of high level U.S. Government officials. The Embassy's goal is to help human rights groups and other civil society organizations become a resource for both the government and Chadian people on human rights issues. In the absence of a US AID mission, the Embassy seeks funding from a number of sources to find ways to meet its goals. An example of a low or no cost way of facilitating dialogue is that of creating opportunities for activists and government officials to interact together in professional and social settings. A reception in honor of a Chadian human rights activist who won the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Prize was well-attended by government ministers, human rights activists, journalists, and opposition politicians.

13. The professionalization of Chad's security forces is a key component of the U.S. Government's strategy for improving the country's record. Department of Defense programs include the International Military Education and Training (IMET) and Counter Terrorism Fellowship Programs

CTFP) at U.S. military facilities, where training on human rights is incorporated into the courses. U.S. Marines trained 170 members of the Republican Guard in June and July in Chad. In addition, 48 Chadian police officers and immigration officials received anti-terrorism training in the United States and Chad. All training candidates were vetted through the Department of State's screening system to ensure compliance with the Leahy Amendment. The Embassy's Public Affairs Section held a public seminar on the role of the military in a democracy. The U.S. Government also funds de-mining activities in northern Chad.

14. The U.S. is using direct contact with Chadian soldiers, including training and visits by U.S. Government officials, and the sharing of information on human rights violations with high level Chadian government officials to emphasize the importance of working together on human rights. The annual human rights report is being used as a basis for collaboration. To date, Chadian government officials have been candid and responsive. Visiting Congressional delegations have supported the Embassy's human rights agenda.

15. Human rights activists and government officials acknowledge that strengthening Chad's weak judicial system is critical to addressing human rights violations in a

systematic and meaningful way. To this end, the Embassy is using Economic Support funds to provide manual typewriters and copies of relevant legal codes to the courts as well as training for magistrates. The Public Affairs Section sponsored an International Visitors Program on the U.S. judicial system. The Democracy and Human Rights Fund (DHRF) is being used to support legal assistance to victims of human rights abuses through the non-governmental Droits de l'Homme Sans Frontiers. Several government ministries expressed support for the program and offered their assistance to DHSF if needed.

16. To strengthen the Chadian media's ability to promote human rights and good governance, Economic Support Funds are being used to provide equipment and training to print and broadcast journalists. A DHRF grant funded the creation of a private radio station in the far north. A training workshop was held for Arabic media with a speaker from Voice of America. The Embassy interacts regularly with the Chadian media and facilitates coverage of U.S. Government events.

17. U.S. Government support for good governance and transparency also included an International Visitor Program on Grassroots Democracy for Young Leaders, a speaker program on the links between good governance, accountability, and transparency, and a book program on how to fight corruption. In addition, the U.S. Treasury continues to provide technical assistance to the Oil Revenue Management College, the accountability mechanism which is reviewing the projects financed by Chadian oil revenues. The Ambassador hosted a U.S. election coverage event that was widely attended by government officials, Chadian political parties, and journalists. At this event and in meetings between Chadian government officials, Embassy officers and visiting delegations emphasized the importance of the election process in sustaining democratic transitions.

18. The promotion of civil rights and civil liberties is being funded by the Human Rights and Democracy Fund (HDRF). The funding for a bi-weekly radio broadcast covering a wide range of human rights issues and civil liberties and civil rights education will be the first of its kind in Chad. The program "The Right To Know" will be shared with other radio stations and translated into several local languages to help increase public awareness of their basic rights. The talk show will be supported by town hall meetings in several cities to encourage discussion between citizens and their local government and security officials on their rights.

19. The U.S. Government's Muslim outreach programs continue. The Embassy supported a program promoting bilingualism with the Al Mouna Center, a respected organization which promotes cross-cultural understanding. A week-long speaker program in Abeche, eastern Chad, with an American imam sparked a great deal of interest and exchange of information with Chadian Muslims. This visit advanced religious freedom through the promotion of dialogue between faiths and among Muslims on key human rights issues. The Embassy used funding from ACCESS to fund microscholarships for 75 children as part of its efforts to reach out to underserved populations.

10. The Embassy has provided several grants for the purpose of eliminating the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Its support to a local NGO resulted in the drafting and enactment of a law which criminalizes FGM, and in FY 2004, it funded an education program to publicize and distribute copies of the law. The Public Diplomacy Section held a panel discussion on female genital mutilation and gender and development in an effort to promote women's

rights. The visit of an American imam to eastern Chad also promoted a better understanding of women's rights and equality issues under Islam. In addition, embassy officers engaged government and non-governmental organizations on trafficking in persons and began planning to facilitate a child protection network to bring together concerned government officials, police, and non-governmental organizations on a range of issues affecting children. The promotion of girls' education has also been a focus of the Embassy's efforts during the 2000-2004 period, using funds

from the Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program to encourage the education of girls. During the 2003/2004 school year, an estimated 5,000 elementary school girls and their families received support under this program, and the rate of female attendance at the 60 pilot schools where the program was implemented increased significantly. In addition, Embassy employees are funding school tuition for a group young girls.

Congressional visitors have also met with key officials and non-governmental organizations on women's issues and HIV/AIDS.

¶11. The ongoing humanitarian crisis in Darfur, Sudan deeply affects Chad. Over 200,000 refugees have sought safety in eastern Chad and the United States is the largest donor to the ongoing humanitarian efforts. In July and August, the U.S. Government undertook a comprehensive survey of Sudanese refugees in Chad, which resulted in the Darfur Atrocities Report and Secretary of State Powell's finding that genocide is occurring in Sudan. In addition, the Embassy is an active participant in the implementation of the Darfur Humanitarian Cease-fire Agreement, which includes monthly meetings of a Joint Commission. The Embassy has contributed personnel to the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur and remains a key interlocutor with the Government of Chad, the rebel movements, and the African Union on the Darfur peace process.

The Embassy has also facilitated the work of human rights organizations and non-governmental organizations working on protection issues for refugee women and children.

¶12. Khartoum and Tripoli Minimize Considered.

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